

ECONOMY**Non-Bank PSPs to Join Centralised Payment System**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed non-bank Payment System Providers (PSPs) to participate in Centralised Payment Systems (CPS - RTGS and NEFT), as direct members.

Key Points**Allowed in a Phased Manner:**

- In the first phase, PSPs such as Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), card networks and White Label ATM (WLA) operators will be allowed access. ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks are called WLAs.
- Presently, only banks and select non-banks such as NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) and Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India) are allowed access to CPS owned by RBI – NEFT and RTGS.

Separate IFSC to Non-Banks:

- It means allotment of a separate Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) to non-banks, opening a current account with the RBI in its core banking system (e-Kuber) and maintaining a settlement account with the RBI.
- 1. IFSC represents the 11 digit character code that helps identify the individual bank branches that participate in the various online money transfer options like NEFT and RTGS.
- 2. Core Banking System is a solution that enables banks to offer a multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis.
- It will also mean membership of Indian Financial Network (INFINET) and use of Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) to communicate with CPS.
- 1. INFINET is a membership-only Closed User Group (CUG) Network that comprises the RBI, Member Banks and Financial Institutions.
- 2. SFMS is India's backbone for inter-bank financial messaging & CPS.

Significance:

- **Minimizing risk of payment ecosystem:** Direct access for non-banks to CPS lowers the overall risk in the payments ecosystem.
- **Reduction in cost of payments:** It also brings advantages to non-banks like reduction in cost of payments, minimising dependence on banks, reducing the time taken for completing payments.
- **Mitigating failure or delay in fund execution:** Risk of failure or delay in execution of fund transfers can also be avoided when the transactions are directly initiated and processed by the non-bank entities.
- **Increasing efficiency and better risk management:** Non-bank entities shall transfer funds from their Current Account to RTGS Settlement Account and vice versa during the operating hours. It will increase efficiency, innovations, improve standards of data security as well as better risk management.

Centralised & Decentralised Payment Systems

- CPS in India are Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems, both owned and operated by the Reserve Bank.
- **RTGS:** It enables real-time transfer of funds to a beneficiary's account and is primarily meant for large-value transactions. Real time means the processing of instructions at the time they are received and gross settlement implies that settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually.
- **NEFT:** It is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches. It is generally used for fund transfers of up to Rs. 2 lakh.
- The decentralised payment systems will include clearing houses managed by RBI (Cheque Truncation System (CTS) centres) as well as other banks (Express Cheque Clearing System (ECCS) centres) and any other system as decided by RBI from time to time.

E-Kuber

- e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of the Reserve Bank of India which was introduced in 2012.

- The centralisation thus makes a “one-stop” shop for financial services a reality. Using CBS, customers can access their accounts from any branch, anywhere, irrespective of where they have physically opened their accounts.
- Almost all branches of commercial banks, including the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), are brought into the core-banking fold.
- The e-kuber system can be accessed either through INFINET or Internet.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting**

Recently, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Defence Minister of India addressed the grouping and said India is committed to working within the SCO framework for helping create & maintain a secure & peaceful region.

Key Points**Major Highlights of Defence Minister's Address:**

- Terrorism is the most serious threat to international peace and security and support to any acts of terror is a crime against humanity. India reaffirms its resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- The geo-strategic location of India makes it both a “Eurasian land power” as well as a stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific.
- Highlighted non-traditional security challenges like pandemics, climate change, food security, water security and associated societal disruptions can impact national and international landscape.
- In dealing with Covid-19 pandemic, India has been at the forefront to provide support and assistance to countries through its Vaccine diplomacy.
- India's initiative on coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure (CDRI) was also an example of how countries were coming together to create and share capabilities to deal with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief issues.

SCO

- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Presently, the SCO comprises eight member states namely India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- SCO nations together encompass nearly half the human population and it covers approximately three-fifths of the Eurasian continent in terms of geographical expanse.
- The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an eight-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
- India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005.
- India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

India's Opportunities and SCO:

- **Regional Security:** SCO will enable India, as an integral part of the Eurasian security grouping, to neutralise threats like religious extremism and terrorism in the region. It is due to this, India has shown keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.
- **Connect With Central Asia:** SCO is also a potential platform to advance India's Connect Central Asia policy. India's ongoing engagement with SCO can be seen through the prism of reconnecting and re-energising ties with a region with which India has shared civilizational linkages, and is considered the country's extended neighbourhood.
- **Dealing With Pakistan & China:** SCO provides India with a forum where it can constructively engage both China and Pakistan in a regional context and project India's security interests.
- **Bringing Stability in Afghanistan:** SCO, also an alternative regional platform to delve into the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan. So far India completed 500 projects in Afghanistan and is continuing with some more, with a total development aid of \$3 billion.

- **Strategic Importance:** Acknowledging the strategic importance emanating from the region and SCO, the Indian Prime Minister had articulated the foundational dimension of Eurasia being 'SECURE'. The letters in the word SECURE are:
 1. S for Security of our citizens,
 2. E for Economic development for all,
 3. C for Connecting the region,
 4. U for Unite our people,
 5. R for Respect for Sovereignty and Integrity, and
 6. E for Environment protection.

Way Forward

- There is a need to provide high priority to the "consolidation of trust" in the security domain within the SCO as well as strengthening ties with partners of the grouping bilaterally on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding.
- The SCO member countries should develop joint institutional capacities that respect individual national sensitivities and yet generate a spirit of cooperation to create contact and connectivity between people, societies and nations.
- Member countries should realise that they have collective stakes to create a safe, secure and stable region that can contribute towards progress and improvement of human development indices.

POLITY**No Parliamentary Immunity for Vandalism: SC**

Recently, the Supreme Court has rejected Kerala government's plea to withdraw criminal cases against its MLAs who were charged in the assembly. The ruling Kerala government had appealed, to the Supreme Court, to withdraw a criminal case against their leaders who destroyed public property and disrupted a Budget speech on the State Assembly floor in 2015.

Key Points**Arguments of the Petitioner:**

- The Kerala Government had claimed parliamentary privilege, arguing that the incident occurred inside the Assembly hall.
- They had claimed immunity from criminal prosecution.
- They had argued that the prior sanction of the Speaker was necessary before the registration of an FIR by the police.

Highlights of the Judgement:

- **Parliamentary Privileges are Not Gateways of Immunity:** The legislators who indulge in vandalism and general mayhem cannot claim parliamentary privilege and immunity from criminal prosecution.
 - **Vandalism is Not Essential Legislative Action:** Lawmakers possess privileges that are essential for exercising public functions. Vandalism and destruction inside the House are not essential for exercising legislative function.
 - **Vandalism and Right to Protest:** Vandalism on the Assembly floor could not be equated with the right to protest by Opposition legislators.
1. No member of an elected legislature can claim either a privilege or immunity to stand above the sanctions of the criminal law (Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984), which applies equally to all citizens.
 2. Destruction of public property could not be equated with the exercise of freedom of speech.
- **Maintaining Public Trust:** Legislators should act within the parameters of the public trust imposed on them to do their duty.
 1. They had taken office swearing true allegiance to the Constitution.
 2. They had to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and had to perform the duty imposed on them by the people who elected them.

About Parliamentary Privilege:

- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can "effectively discharge their functions". When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.

- The Constitution (Article 105 for Parliament and Article 194 for State Assemblies) mentions two privileges, i.e. freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
- Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook governs privilege.

Individualistic Privileges:

- **Freedom of Speech:** The members of Parliament/state assembly enjoy freedom of speech and expression.
- 1. No member can be taken to task anywhere outside the four walls of the House (e.g. court of law) or cannot be discriminated against for expressing his/her views in the House and its Committees.
- 2. However, a member has the privilege of freedom of speech in Parliament, he has no right to publish it outside Parliament.
- **Freedom from Arrest:** No member shall be arrested in a civil case 40 days before and after the adjournment of the House and also when the House is in session. It also means that no member can be arrested within the precincts of the Parliament without the permission of the House to which he/she belongs.
- **Exemption from Attendance as Witnesses:** The members of Parliament/ assemblies also enjoy freedom from attendance as witnesses.

Collective Privileges:

- Right to Publish Debates and Proceedings: Parliament/Assembly can prohibit the press to publish its proceedings, when needed.
- Right to exclude strangers: Parliament/Assembly enjoys the right to exclude strangers (non-members or visitors) from the galleries at any time and to resolve debate with closed doors.
- Right to Punish Members and Outsiders: In India, the Parliament/Assembly has been given punitive powers to punish those who are judged guilty of contempt of the House.

2.DICGC Bill, 2021

Recently, the Union Cabinet has cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Bill, 2021.

The failure of banks such as Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank, Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank reignited the debate on the low level of insurance against the deposits held by customers in Indian banks.

Key Points**Coverage:**

- The bill will cover 98.3% of depositors and 50.9% of deposit value in the banking system, way above the global level of 80% and 20-30%, respectively.
- It will cover all types of banks, which also include regional rural banks and co-operative banks.
- It will cover banks already under moratorium and those that could come under moratorium. Moratorium is a legally authorized period of delay in the performance of a legal obligation or the payment of a debt.

Insurance Cover:

- It will provide funds up to Rs 5 lakh to an account holder within 90 days in the event of a bank coming under the moratorium imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- 1. Earlier, account holders had to wait for years till the liquidation or restructuring of a distressed lender to get their deposits that are insured against default.
- 2. The Rs 5-lakh deposit insurance cover was raised from Rs 1 lakh in 2020. The Damodaran Committee on 'Customer Services in Banks' (2011) had recommended a five-time increase in the cap to Rs. 5 lakh due to rising income levels and increasing size of individual bank deposits.
- Within the first 45 days of the bank being put under moratorium, the DICGC would collect all information relating to deposit accounts. In the next 45 days, it will review the information and repay depositors within a maximum of 90 days.

Insurance Premium:

- It permits raising the deposit insurance premium by 20% immediately, and maximum by 50%. The premium is paid by banks to the DICGC. The Insured banks pay advance insurance

premiums to the corporation semi-annually within two months from the beginning of each financial half year, based on their deposits as at the end of previous half year.

- It has been raised from 10 paise for every Rs 100 deposit, to 12 paise and a limit of 15 paise has been imposed.
- This is only an enabling provision and the determination of an increase in the premium payable would involve consultations with the RBI and require government approval.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Earth Overshoot Day, 2021

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), humanity has again used up all biological resources that our planet regenerates during the entire year by 29th July, 2021. Humanity currently uses 74% more than what the planet's ecosystems can regenerate — or 1.7 Earths. From Earth Overshoot Day until the end of the year, humanity operates on ecological deficit spending.

Key Points

About:

- The day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.
- The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in 2006 to launch the first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign.
- 1. Global Footprint Network is an international non profit organization founded in the year 2003. Its key strategy has been to make available robust Ecological Footprint data.
- 2. The Ecological Footprint is a metric that comprehensively compares human demand on nature against nature's capacity to regenerate.
- Earth Overshoot Day is computed by dividing the planet's biocapacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year: $(\text{Earth's Biocapacity} / \text{Humanity's Ecological Footprint}) \times 365 = \text{Earth Overshoot Day}$

Causes:

- The prime driver was the 6.6% increase in the global carbon footprint in 2020. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a carbon footprint is a measure of the impact people's activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced through the burning of fossil fuels and is expressed as a weight of CO₂ emissions produced in tonnes.
- There was also a 0.5% decrease in 'global forest biocapacity' due to a rise in deforestation of the Amazon's rainforests. Some 1.1 million hectares of rainforest were lost in Brazil alone, which is home to the largest swathe of Amazonian rainforest.

Predictions:

- Even worse, there would be a 43% year-over-year increase in deforestation in 2021.
- The carbon footprint of transportation will be lower this year than pre-pandemic levels.
- 1. CO₂ emissions from road transport and domestic air travel will be 5% below 2019 levels.
- 2. CO₂ emissions due to international aviation will be 33% below 2019 levels.
- But global energy-related CO₂ emissions will increase 4.8% from last year as economies try to recover from the impact of Covid-19.
- Global coal use is estimated to constitute 40% of the total carbon footprint.

Suggestions:

- A business-as-usual scenario will simply not work if the date for World Overshoot Day is to be pushed behind.
- A number of measures can be taken such as cutting down on food wastage, commercial technologies for buildings, industrial processes and electricity production and cutting down on transportation.

Related Global Initiatives:

- **The Conference of the Parties (COPs):**
- 1. For nearly three decades the United Nations (UN) has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits called COPs.
- 2. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority.
- 3. This year will be the 26th annual summit – giving it the name COP26 will take place in Glasgow, UK.

• Paris Agreement:

1. It is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 and entered into force in November 2016.
2. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Some Indian Initiatives:

1. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
2. Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms
3. UJALA scheme
4. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Kanjeevaram Silk Sari**

National award winning artisan weaver, B Krishnamoorthy, has created a repository with samples of all the designs, patterns and motifs traditional to Kanjeevaram silk sari weaving, preserving fine pieces for next generation.

Key Points**About Kanjeevaram Sarees:**

- Traditionally, the Kanjeevaram is a sari that is usually handwoven in mulberry silk and has pure gold or silver zari that renders it a festive quality. Handloom silk saree is identified as the most luxurious and classy fabric in Indian traditional clothing.
- Originating from the village ‘Kanchipuram’ in Tamil Nadu, Kanjeevaram is considered the queen of silk sarees.
- The temple architecture of south India and especially around Kanchipuram has historically served as a mood board for design inspiration for the traditional Kanjeevaram motifs. One can spot motifs such as the mythical creature called the Yali (an elephant-lion fusion), the Ganda Berunda (a two-headed majestic mythical bird) and the ubiquitous temple border called reku.
- Tracing its long and rich history from the Chola Dynasty, Kanchipuram sarees today are considered as one of the oldest and rich legacies of the Indian textile industry.
- Kanchipuram silk has also received Geographical indication (GI Tag) in 2005-06.

Other GI tagged Sarees:

1. Tamil Nadu: Kandangi Saree, Thirubuvanam silk sarees, Kovai Kora Cotton Sarees
2. Uttar Pradesh: Banaras Brocade
3. Karnataka: Ilkal Saree, Molakalmuru Saree
4. Andhra Pradesh: Uppada Jamdani Sarees, Venkatagiri Sarees, Mangalagiri Saree
5. Kerala: Balaramapuram Sarees, Kasaragod Sarees, Kuthampully Sarees
6. Telangana: Gadwal Saree, Pochampally Ikat (logo)
7. Madhya Pradesh: Chanderi Saree, Maheshwar Sarees
8. Odisha: Orissa Ikat, Bomkai Saree, Habaspuri Saree
9. West Bengal: Santipore Saree, Baluchari Saree, Dhaniakhali Saree
10. Maharashtra: Paithani Sarees and Fabrics, Karvath Kati Sarees and Fabrics
11. Chhattisgarh: Champa Silk Saree
12. Gujarat: Surat Zari Craft, Patola Saree.

Silk Production in India:

- India is the second largest producer of silk in the world, producing around 18% of the world's total silk.
- There are five major types of silk of commercial importance, obtained from different species of silkworms. These are Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri. Except mulberry, other non-mulberry varieties of silks are wild silks, known as vanya silks.
- India has the unique distinction of producing all these commercial varieties of silk.
- South India is the leading silk producing area of the country and is also known for its famous silk weaving enclaves like Kancheepuram, Dharmavaram, Arni, etc.
- The Government of India in 2017 launched a scheme called “Silk Samagra” for the development of sericulture in the country.

2. SLDE and GHG Calculator

Recently, the government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE) along with a Calculator for GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to boost Ease-Of-Doing Business in the country. In World Bank's Ease-Of-Doing Business Report, 2020 India was ranked 63 out of 190 countries.

Key Points

Secured Logistics Document Exchange:

- The SLDE platform is a solution to replace the present manual process of generation, exchange and compliance of logistics documents with a digitized, secure and seamless document exchange system.
- It will enable generation, storage and interchange of logistics-related documents digitally using Aadhaar and blockchain-based security protocols for data security and authentication
- It will also provide a complete audit trail of document transfer, faster execution of transactions, lower cost of shipping and overall carbon footprint, easy verification of authenticity of documents, lowered risk of fraud, etc.

GreenHouse Gas Emission Calculator:

- The GHG Calculator is an efficient, user-friendly tool and provides for calculating and comparing GHG emissions across different modes.
- It allows for commodity-wise comparison of GHG emissions and total cost of transportation, including their environmental cost, between movement by road and rail.
- The tool is intended to facilitate appropriate modal choice for all concerned.

Benefits:

- **Improved Efficiency:** Initiatives will improve logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost, and promote multi-modality and sustainability in a big way, also help fill the gap areas where no action has yet been taken either by private players or any of the line ministries.
- **Achieving Targets:** It will help achieve the targets of improved India's ranking in Logistics Performance Index (LPI), reduction in logistics cost and establishment of indigenous India-specific metrics for continual improvement in logistics. India ranked 44th on the LPI in 2018.

Related Initiatives:

- **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC):** It is a high speed and high capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight, or in other words, goods and commodities.
- **National Logistics Law 2020:** It aims to streamline the logistics ecosystem in the country, with a view to promote growth of the sector and also to add impetus to enhance export competitiveness and ranking in LPI.
- **Logix India 2019:** It was organized by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) as an initiative to improve logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's global trade.
- **Multimodal Logistics Park:** The park will reduce trade cost by 10% and have cargo capacity of 13 million metric tons (MMT) per year.
- **Fast Tracking Freight in India:** Recently it was launched to make goods transport cost-effective and to reduce India's logistics cost.
- **Port Community System 'PCS1x':** The platform has the potential to revolutionize maritime trade in India and bring it at par with global best practices and pave the way to improve the Ease of Doing Business world ranking and LPI ranks.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Cross-border links between terrorists, organized crime, underscore need for coherent global response. Comment. (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

Crime and terrorism are critical issues for security officials and investigators all around the world. Earlier, the problems of organized crime and terrorism were considered as separate phenomena but after horrified incident of September 11th attacks, researchers have started linking these two as terrorized occurrence.

Body

Link between Organized crime and terrorism:

- Though mostly both the phenomena are studied differently. Both have different ends. While the organized crime engages in various criminal activities for financial gains, terrorism engages in its

violent activities for political gains. But recently, Scholars have stated that there is a strong link between the two. Terrorists are increasingly supporting them through terrorist activities.

- **Terrorism and Drug Trafficking:** According to UNDOC (2017), annual trade of illicit drugs is estimated in the range of \$426-652 billion, and the proceeds of which generate 1/5th to 1/3rd of the global revenues of organized crime. Approximately 86% of the world's Opium cultivation takes place in Afghanistan in the regions controlled by the Taliban. The Taliban's association with the opium economy also indicates a correlation between the trade-in illicit drugs as a criminal activity and terrorism.
- **Terrorism and Arms Trafficking:** Terrorists are increasingly using automatic weapons to perpetrate attacks and there is a growing concern about arms trafficking groups supporting terrorism with the provision of advanced arms. The use of weapons by terrorists is evident in several recent attacks and attempted attacks across Europe. For example, in the ISIL inspired terrorist attacks carried out in Paris in November 2015, extremists opened fire with Kalashnikov and other types of assault rifles, which ended up in the criminal market as a result of cross-border trafficking
- **Terrorism and smuggling:** Terrorist groups seem to have increasingly taken up trafficking in illicit antiquities and cultural property to fund their operations, support recruits, and acquire weapons. Antiquities are not only a source of revenue generation for terrorists, but they also have symbolic value. By destroying and/or removing symbolic representations of culture, terrorist groups effectively undermine the State/nationalism and attack the morale of local populations/peoples through a type of "cultural cleansing"
- **Terrorism and human trafficking:** Trafficking in persons is a lucrative business for armed groups around the world (UNCTED, 2019). Recent actions by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), or Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, and Boko Haram (Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad) in Nigeria have drawn attention to a growing nexus between terrorism and trafficking in persons
- **Terrorism and kidnapping for ransom:** From 1970-2010, kidnapping incidents represented a small portion of all terrorist attacks (6.9%), however, through 2016 the percentage of kidnappings has jumped significantly to 15.8% of all terrorist attacks (Global Terrorism Database, 2018)

Terrorism and organized crime are similarity

1. They both operate in secrecy and try not to come under the radar of national and international law enforcement agencies.
2. Both use violence and most of the times the victims are civilians
3. They work with an ideology of fear to get things done.
4. They use front organizations such as legitimate corporates and national and international NGOs.

Terrorism and organization are distinguishable

1. Organized crime groups are mainly in criminal activities for money and other material benefits as seen earlier while terrorist groups are engaged in activities for political, religious and other goals.
2. Terrorist organizations that want to topple existing states contest them for legitimacy among the people but organized crimes don't need to gain legitimacy among the people.
3. Terrorist organizations try to make a statement with their activities and attract media attention but Organized crime works in forever secrecy.
4. Terrorist organizations engage in activities in propaganda but organized crime does not.

Reasons for the increasing nexus between Terrorism and organized crime

- Both are realizing the complementary nature of each other in achieving their goals.
- They have a common enemy in national governments and the rule of law.
- Historically, the end of the cold war ended financial support to many terrorist organizations that led terrorist organizations to link themselves with organized crime for financial support.
- Increased sophistication in money laundering as corporates engage in tax evasion that helps in the continuous money supply.
- Issues of mis-governance and lack of governance.
- The inequalities existing in society are manipulated by these organizations to grow their base.
- Globalization has its side effects through the communication revolution and its anonymity. The cyberspace and dark web are increasingly being used to coordinate.
- The outstanding geopolitical issues that are sought to be solved by governments through immoral activities like terrorism and crime penetration.

Difficulties in tackling the nexus

- The legal complexities create duplicity of efforts and jurisdictional issues. These delays investigation and often gives unnecessary cooling-off period for groups to regather themselves.
- The higher echelons of organized crime are insulated from its foot soldiers. Hence it is difficult to dent the structure significantly. There is difficulty in obtaining proof.
- The main link between these two is network of financial transactions. The rising sophistication in money laundering and corporate greed resulting in tax evasion, unfortunately, helps the network of money laundering.
- There is a lack of coordination between police departments of different states that makes organized crime and terrorist nexus easy to operate.
- The criminal-political-bureaucratic nexus helps crime syndicates which indirectly helps in the spread of terrorism.
- The state support for terrorism and unorganized crime makes it difficult for any international cooperation and consensus-building.
- Dual criminality and the spread of nexus across the world make it difficult to track due to lack of international and bilateral coordination and cooperation.

Way forward

- The nexus that is thriving due to complementary nature must be broken down so that it will be easier to tackle them separately.
- There is a need for fine-tuning of the criminal investigation so as to find and establish links of a crime syndicate with terrorism.
- Improving coordination and establishing specialized units to investigate. The specialized unit must have competent human resources, finances, technical expertise and appropriate legal backing to work in an unhindered manner.
- The necessity of legal backing stems from the existence of numerous stakeholders such as state police, border security, financial sector, special units such as narcotics departments.
- The interstate coordination is necessary and an organization in the lines of the National Counter Terrorism Center to tackle the nexus. It will help in national and international coordination.
- India must continue to engage the international space for better policy, concerted actions against state-sponsored terrorism, and terrorist financing.
- The international cooperation can stem from UNSC resolutions and other institutional mechanisms such as FATF.

Conclusion

Member States are rightly focused on tackling the health crisis caused by COVID-19. “But we must not forget or be complacent about the continuing threat of terrorism”. In many parts of the world, terrorists are exploiting local grievances and poor governance to regroup and assert their control. “Collective action and international cooperation are needed now more than ever.”

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Harappan City of Dholavira:

1. It is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. Its location is on the Tropic of Cancer.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **Both 1 and 2**
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
2. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals and does not get any budgetary support.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. **1 only**
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Arrange the following islands in the direction of North to South:

1. Natuna Islands
2. Paracel Islands
3. Spratly Islands

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a. 1-2-3
- b. 2-1-3
- c. **2-3-1**
- d. 1-3-2

Q4. International Labour Organisation, Conventions 138 and 182 are related to

- a. **Child labour**
- b. Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- c. Regulation of food prices and food security
- d. Gender parity at the workplace

Q5. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct?

- a. A bill shall be deemed to be money bill if it contains only provisions related to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
- b. A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.
- c. **A Money Bill is concerned with appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.**
- d. A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the government of India



VANIK-IAS
Exclusive Coaching for UPSC/OPSC